Listing of the Claims:

Please delete all prior listings of claims and substitute therefor the following listing of claims:

1. (Previously presented) A composition comprising freeze-dried demineralized bone matrix DBM particles, an exothermic salt that heats upon contact with a reconstitution fluid, and a carrier, wherein said carrier is gelatin, hyaluronic acid, polyethylene oxide, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyvinyl alcohol, collagen or dextran, or a combination thereof.

2. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein said carrier is gelatin and said gelatin is freeze-dried.

3. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein said freeze-dried DBM particles are about 125 microns to about 850 microns in size.

4. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 3, wherein said freeze-dried DBM particles are about 250 microns to about 500 microns in size.

5. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein said carrier is gelatin.

6. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 5, wherein said gelatin is in the form of granules having a size of about 125 microns to about 710 microns.

7. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 6, wherein said gelatin is in the form of granules having a size of about 500 microns to about 710 microns.

8. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, further comprising antibiotics; or sucrose, dextrose or other biologically compatible anti-caking agents; or a combination thereof.

9. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, further comprising barium, iodine, or other radioopaque substances, or a combination thereof.

10. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 4, wherein said carrier is gelatin.

11. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein said exothermic salt comprises Magnesium chloride, Sodium sulfate, Magnesium sulfate, or a combination thereof.

12. (Previously presented) A composition consisting essentially of freeze-dried DBM particles, an exothermic salt that heats upon contact with a reconstitution fluid, and a carrier, wherein said carrier is gelatin, hyaluronic acid, polyethylene oxide, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyvinyl alcohol, collagen or dextran, or a combination thereof.

13. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 12 wherein the carrier is gelatin.

14. (Previously presented) An article of manufacture comprising a container having the composition of claim 1 disposed therein.

15. (Previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 14, wherein said container is a syringe.

16. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 12, wherein the DBM particles are about 250 microns to about 500 microns in size.

17. (Previously presented) A method of treating a bone defect or injury comprising reconstituting the composition of claim 1 with a reconstitution fluid to form a

paste composition, wherein said reconstitution fluid is selected from the group consisting of water, water-based salines, blood or fractions thereof, protein solutions, gelatin solutions, growth factor solutions, antibiotic solutions, analgesic solutions, platelet rich plasma, crude platelet extract, and combinations thereof; and administering the paste composition to said bone defect or injury .

18. Previously presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein said dried bone paste is stored at room temperature for more than about 24 hours, and which is reconstituted to form a reconstituted paste composition prior to administration, whereby upon reconstitution said reconstituted paste composition is osteogenic, chondrogenic, or chondroprotective, or a combination thereof.

19. (Previously presented) A lyophilized composition comprising freeze-dried DBM particles, an exothermic salt that heats upon contact with a reconstitution fluid, and a carrier, wherein said carrier is gelatin, hyaluronic acid, chondroitin sulfate, polyethylene oxide, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyvinyl alcohol, collagen or dextran, or combinations thereof, wherein said composition is lyophilized and stored at room temperature for more than about 24 hours, and wherein when said composition is combined with water, the resulting combination is osteogenic, chondrogenic, or chondroprotective or a combination thereof upon implantation in the body of a patient.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 19, wherein said exothermic salt is selected from the group consisting of magnesium sulfate, magnesium chloride, sodium sulfate, or a combination thereof.

22. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 21, wherein the carrier is gelatin.

23. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 22, wherein the gelatin is freeze-dried gelatin.

24. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 21, wherein the gelatin has a particle size ranging from about 125 microns to about 710 microns.

25. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 24, wherein the gelatin has a particle size ranging from about 500 microns to about 850 microns.

26. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 25, wherein the DBM particles have a particle size ranging from about 125 microns to about 850 microns.

27 (Previously presented) The composition of claim 26, wherein the DBM particles have a particle size ranging from about 250 microns to about 500 microns.